



A 501c3 Non-Profit Animal Welfare Organization

P. O. Box 730, Charlotte, MI 48813

www.voiceless-mi.org

May 20, 2013

Senator Joe Hune
505 Farnum Building
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Hune,

On behalf of my organization Voiceless-Michigan, I respectfully request that you schedule a hearing very soon for SB 354 to require the humane euthanasia of Michigan's shelter pets.

Voiceless-MI provides rescue, adoption and spay/neuter services throughout Michigan. This year alone, our spay/neuter programs will assist over 1,000 Michigan families to keep their beloved pets without the risk of reproduction. Our rescue program works with animal shelters and families throughout Michigan, including your district, by saving animals that would otherwise be euthanized and matching them with families who are looking for pets. We are not just a rescue; We are a Michigan organization that assists Michigan animal shelters, Michigan residents and Michigan pets.

I know that you, along with all Michiganders, want to know that Michigan homeless pets that are not fortunate enough to find homes, are treated humanely and with dignity by providing a humane and compassionate form of euthanasia. Slow and painful suffocation, lasting up to 25 minutes, is not what Michiganders want for their pets, especially when transition to EBI can be easily accomplished without added cost or labor to Michigan. Simply put, there is no longer a reason not to.

There is a reason carbon monoxide is only used in four (4) remaining Michigan counties; The other 79 counties use EBI (Euthanasia By Injection) because it is less expensive, safer to both shelter staff and animals it's far more compassionate and humane. With 79 Michigan counties using EBI, that is overwhelming proof that Michiganders and shelters do not want animals euthanized by gas. And two (2) of the four(4) remaining counties have already indicated they too will cease using the gas chamber when it is no longer functional. Even in your own district, the Livingston, Ingham, and Shiawassee County Animal Control agencies use EBI and have publicly opposed the use of carbon monoxide gas.

Each of the four (4) aforementioned counties already have an EBI back-up system in place and/or are trained in EBI procedures. Any additional training and funding for removal of existing gas chambers has been offered at no cost to Michigan tax payers. Again, there is no longer a reason not to.



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Equally important, there is less danger to shelter staff using EBI. Sedating then injecting an animal is far less dangerous and stressful than dragging the animal into a chamber. And, with cases of exploding or malfunctioning gas chambers injuring and killing shelter staff in other states, many other states have banned the use of gas chambers. Just this month, Texas overwhelmingly approved a ban of carbon monoxide euthanasia.

All national and local animal welfare experts, including the Michigan Humane Society, National Animal Control Association and American Veterinary Association, agree that EBI is the safest, most cost effective and most humane method of euthanasia. They all oppose the use of carbon monoxide

In closing, I respectfully request you consider the facts and your fellow Michiganders by conducting a hearing and voting in favor of SB 354. Let's keep this great State of Michigan great!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Beth Contreras

Vice-President

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